about Ayurveda in several countries like Europe, Canada, USA etc. and the popularity of herbal medicine is growing;

(b) The Government have taken following steps to promote Ayurvedic and Harbal medicines in the global market:—

(i) Setting up a National Medicinal Plant Board for integrated development of medicinal plant sector.

(ii) Sending official delegations comprising trade representative to various countries to promote AYUSH drugs.

(iii) Extending support to industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products.

(iv) Relaxing labeling provisions to facilitate exports.

(v) Expanding mandatory testing facilities. Twenty-nine State Drug Testing Laboratories have been strengthened and Twenty-six Private Drug Testing Laboratories have been recognized for testing of AYUSH medicines and presence of heavy metals, microbial contamination, afloatoxin etc.

(vi) Notifying Good Manufacturing Practices.

Supply of counterfeit drugs to EU

3861. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaint from European Commission Taxation and Customs Union to the effect that India is the biggest supplier of counterfeit drugs to the European Union and if so, the details thereof including the seizure of such drugs by the said Union;

(b) what are the names of companies which had supplied counterfeit drugs which have been seized by the Union; and

(c) what action Government have taken against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir. However, it has been gathered from the Embassy of India in Brussels that in November 2006 the CEFIC (European Chemical Industry Federation), APIC (Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredients Committee) and EFCG (European Fine Chemicals Group) made a representation to Director General, Enterprise of the European Commission, where it was alleged that India and China are big manufacturers of counterfeit Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). These allegations have been strongly refuted by the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry in their individual meetings with the officials of the European Commission. In the 2nd meeting of India-European Union (EU), Joint Working Group (JWG) on Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology held on 30-31 May 2007, in New Delhi, the EU delegation informed about the concern of the Parliament of the EU regarding validity of self-certifications in the context of the resolution adopted by it concerning the testing of starting materials and combating of counterfeits. It was proposed by the EU delegation to discuss, these

concerns in the JWG and report back to EU Member-States about reliable quality measures for exports taken by Indian pharmaceutical companies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

MRTPC findings regarding cartelisation by cement companies

3862. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) in a three-member bench verdict found the private cement industry sector guilty of cartelisation while raising prices periodically in the past;

(b) whether the MRTPC in its cease and desist order has assked the errant cement companies to refrain from indulging in any sort of cartelisation arrangement to the detriment of the consumer; and

(c) whether even after issuance of such orders by MRTPC in cases related to past instances, the cement companies still jack up the prices with impunity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The MRTP Commission in two recent orders has stated that "the cement companies of private sector had connived in fixing the prices of cement." The Commission also passed "cease and desist" orders and directed the errant cement companies to refrain from indulging in any sort of cartelization arrangement to the detriment of the consumer. Aggrieved by one of these orders, the cement companies filed an appeal before the Supreme Court. The Apex Court on 8th February, 2008 passed interim orders and stayed the Commission's directions with respect to filing of the affidavit of compliance.

Land to Georgia Institute of Technology

3863. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some State Government has allotted 250 acres of land to Georgia Institute of Technology in the city outskirts;

(b) will Government give clearance to institutes of academic excellence only to set up multi-services SEZs; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) No proposal for setting up of Special Economic Zone has been received from Georgia Institute of Technology. Approvals are granted for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in all sectors, including for multi-services SEZs, by the 19 Member Board of Approval (BoA) for SEZs as per the provisions contained in the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006. Only those proposals which are recommended by the respective State Government are considered by the Board of Approval for Special Economic Zones.